



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Pennsylvania

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September 24, 2004

NEWS RELEASE

United States Attorney Patrick L. Meehan today announced the filing of an information¹ against Wendell B. Toland, Jr., charging him with one count of the Hobbs Act, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1951.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANT

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE/ DATE OF BIRTH
WENDELL B. TOLAND, JR.	5600 Ogontz Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19141	January 26, 1957 (47)

According to the information, Toland, a Minority Business Enterprise Specialist II for the Minority Business Enterprise Council ("MBEC"), took payments totaling \$1,400 on four separate occasions in exchange for falsely certifying the wives of two non-disabled white male contractors as woman owned, disadvantaged business enterprises ("WDBEs").

In or about April 2000, the information alleges, Toland accepted approximately \$500 from Philadelphia contractor "John Doe" in exchange for falsely certifying Doe's wife as a WDBE. Doe subsequently utilized the certification to procure a subcontract funded by federal monies.

On or about August 29, 2001; February 27, 2002; and March 27, 2002, the information further alleges, Toland accepted \$100, \$100, and \$700, respectively, from the owner of "Black Dog Contracting." "Black Dog Contracting" was a fictitious firm from Mt. Laurel, New Jersey purportedly engaged in general construction and carpentry work.

As the information sets forth, MBEC, located in the Municipal Services Building, 1401 John F. Kennedy Boulevard, Room 330, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was the agency for the City of Philadelphia responsible for certifying disadvantaged business enterprises. MBEC was also a United States Department of Transportation certifying agency under the Unified Certification Program. Only those minority, woman, and disabled owned, disadvantaged business enterprises that have been certified by MBEC may have their participation credited

¹An information is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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toward the City's goals of having appropriate disadvantaged business enterprises included in municipal contracts. Toland's job was to ensure that all minority business applicants met the appropriate criteria to become disadvantaged minority business contractors.

If convicted, the defendant faces a maximum possible sentence of twenty years of imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000. The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the United States Department of Transportation, Inspector General; and the United States Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General, and has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Joseph G. Poluka.

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